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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07834 150926Z
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 JUSE-00 /059 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BAFlack DATE 2/12/82

P R 150852Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6416
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7834
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT KS
SUBJ: KNCC DECLARATION ON PAK TONG-SON CASE
1. KNCC ISSUED STATEMENT ON PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR SEPT 14. LOCAL MEDIA REFUSED TO CARRY STATEMENT AND EVEN CHRISTIAN BOPADCASTING SYSTEM WHICH WAS WILLING TO BROADCAST STATEMENT WAS PREVENTED BY DIRECT ORDER OF THE KCIA. KNCC DID MAKE STATEMENT AVAILABLE TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.
2. TEXT OF STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: "WE HAV BEEN WATCHING THE PAK TONG-SON CASE WITH GREAT CONCERN. THIS CASE HAS ATTRACTED ATTENTION NOT ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES BUT ALL OVER THE WORLD. AS WE CONCLUDE THAT THIS CASE HAS REACHED A STAGE WHERE IT NO LONGER CONCERNS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, PAK TONG-SON ALONE, WE FEEL OBLIGED TO CLARIFY OUR POSITION ON THIS CASE IN VIEW OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.
ME PAK TONG-SON SHOULD GO TO THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION OPENLY IN ORDER NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE SECURITY OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND THE PRESTIGE OF OUR NATION.
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 07834 150926Z
THIS CASE DOES NOT SOLELY CONCERN PAK TONG-SON AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL BUT BRINGS DISGRACE AND HARM TO OUR NATION AND PEOPLE. IF HE INDEED BELIEVES THAT HE IS INNOCENT, HE IS ALL THE MORE OBLIGED TO GO TO THE SCENE OF THE EVENTS TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE AND CLEAR OUR PEOPLE OF DISGRACE IN THE EYES OF MANY FRIENDLY NATIONS OF THE WORLD. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE TENSION WHICH HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES. THAT THIS CASE DOES NOT CONCERN PAK TONG-SON ALONE BUT EFFECTS THE DIGNITY OF OUR NATION.
FURTHERMORE, WE FEAR THAT THIS AFFAIR MAY HAVE A HARMFUL EFFECT ON OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS DISCUSSING COMPENSATORY MEASURES FOR UNITED STATES TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND IF THIS CASE SHOULD LEAD TO DISTRUST OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WE MUST SAY THAT THE CASE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUR SECURITY.
FINALLY, WE BELIEVE OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPLAIN THIS
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AFFAIR TO THE PEOPLE. IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW A
PERSON COULD BE DISIGNATED AS THE BROKER FOR IMPORTING
RICE, A POSITION OF SPECIAL FAVOR ENABLING THE HOLDER
TO EARN ENORMOUS PROFITS, WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF
GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.
CONSIDERING ALL OF THESE POINTS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE
PAK TONG-SON CASE BE SETTLED FAIRLY AND PROPERLY IN SUCH
A WAY AS NOT TO HARM THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN
KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES, THAT GOVERNMENT SEEK
TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SAVE THE
KOREAN PEOPLE FROM DISGRACE, RESTOR NATIONAL PRESTIGE
AND CONSOLIDATE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. WE RECOMMEND THAT
MR PAK TONG-SON COOPERATE IN THE RESOLUTION OF THIS AFFAIR
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 07834 1509267
WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY IN MIND."
SEPTEMBER 14, 1977 KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.
END TEXT.
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